Lughan

EIGHTEENTH

Annual Report

OF THE

PHILADELPHIA BIBLE SOCIETY.

NOVEMBER, 1856.

BIBLE HOUSE,

WASHINGTON SQUARE, WALNUT AND SEVENTH STS. PHILADELPHIA.

WILFRED HALL, GENERAL AGENT.

EIGHTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Philadelphia Bible Society.

The services of the Eighteenth Anniversary of the Society were held at the National Hall, November 27, 1856.

James Bayard, Esq., the President of the Society, directed the exercises.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

1. Reading of the Seriptures and Prayer, by the Rev. IRWIN H. TORRENCE, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Bible Society.

2. The Annual Report was read by Thomas McKellar,

Esq., Corresponding Secretary.

3. Address by the Rev. John Dowling, D.D., of New York.

4. Hymn.

5. Address by the Rev. Thomas II. Stockton, of Philadelphia.

6. Hymn.

7. Address by his Excellency Governor Pollock.

8. Doxology.

9. Benediction.

After the spirited, eloquent, and instructive addresses of the several speakers, George H. Stuart, Esq., made a few stirring remarks, and offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The American Bible Society has undertaken to enter on a second exploration of our entire country, with the purpose of placing a copy of the Sacred Scriptures, as early as practicable, in every destitute household where there is a willingness to receive it; be it

Resolved, That the Philadelphia Bible Society will endeavour, during the present year, to raise at least the sum of ten thousand dollars to assist in

this great undertaking.

Officers and Managers.

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JAMES BAYARD.

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W. G. E. AGNEW, THOMAS COOPER,

JOSHUA COWPLAND, DAVIS PEARSON.

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WILLIAM S. ADAIR,
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e, Charles B. Durborrow,

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Thomas McKellar,
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William R. McAdam,
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Charles N. Brock.

REFORMED DUTCH CHURCHES.

Henry A. Bower, Chairman.

Thomas Cooper,

Charles Santee.

INDEPENDENT CHURCHES. William Butcher, Chairman.

List of Managers

And the Churches mith which then are Connected.

JAMES BAYARD,				٠	First Presbyterian.
Joshua Cowpland,					Epiphany Episcopal.
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JOHN McClure,					Sixth Presbyterian.
John Sparhawk,					First Presbyterian.
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ISAAC SULGER,					St. John's Lutheran.
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					St. Matthew's Lutheran.
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ALEXANDER BROWN, .	•	•	٠	٠	Ninth Presbyterian.
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John S. Cummings, .				•	Western Presbyterian.
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WILLIAM R. MCADAM, .				•	Seventh Presbyterian.
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WILLIAM THOMPSON, .				•	Logan Square Presbyterian.
P. Beck Carter,			•		St. Paul's Methodist.
WILLIAM GETTY,		•			Associate Reformed Presbyterian.
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Anthony J. Drexel, .					Atonement Episcopal.
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HENRY D. GREGORY, .					Spring Garden Presbyterian.
Joseph A. Bremer, .					Zion Lutheran.
CHARLES B. DURBORROW,					St. Paul's Episcopal.
CHARLES N. BROCK, .					First German Reformed.
ROBERT AITKEN,					Central Presbyterian, N. Liberties.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Or our Divine Redeemer a peculiar record is, that "he went about doing good." Having assumed man's nature to accomplish God's purposes of mercy toward a fallen world, his compassion moved him to continual action for the welfare of the race to which he had allied himself. His teaching and his conduct were alike shaped with a view to influence his disciples to "walk as he also walked;" and his parting words to them, when he ascended to the "glory which he had with the Father before the world was," were, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

Thus commissioned, the Church which he instituted has endeavoured, with a sometimes faltering yet a gradually growing energy, to acquaint the world with that amazing plan of redemption by which "God can be just, and yet the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus."

In the early ages, when books were produced only by means of the slow and patient toil of the copyist, the living voice was almost the sole instrument by which the infinite grace of God could be proclaimed to man. Faithfully was it used, and converts were multiplied; but, alas! a time of falling away ensued. God's witnesses were sacrificed, or driven away to wilds and mountain fastnesses, and a darkness came over the earth, and men sat in the dismal shadows an occasional intervening flash of light serving to show how black was the darkness,—till Coster shaped his first rude letters on the bark of a tree, and Guttenberg and his compeers perfected the discovery of the typographic art, and gave to the world, as its glorious first-fruit, the printed Word of God. Then ensued the grand Reformation, when the man of sin was checked in mid-career, and the cardinal doctrines of the religion of Christ were plainly set forth before the world.

The Reformers wisely availed themselves of the new art, and the common people were enabled to read in their own tongues the wonderful works of God. It was not, however, till, through the suggestive destitution of a child, the British and Foreign Bible Society was instituted, that the Christian Church fully made use of the more than magical facilities afforded by the printing press for scattering the Word of God broadcast over the world. A Bible Society was soon after formed in Philadelphia; and in 1816 American Christians generally combined in the organization of our own efficient American Bible Society. Auxiliaries

were speedily originated; and the English version of the Inspired Word was made accessible to every English reader.

This admirable rendering of the Holy Scriptures has become as familiar to us as our own firesides; and it is almost without the range of probability that it will ever be superseded. As a living divine has truly said, "The words of our English version have been wrought into the very substance of our speech, our thoughts, and our household terms. They ring like sweet chimes in our hymns, our prayers, our best sermons. The best and purest literature of our country has its roots in that noble version; and never does orator speak with such force, or poet sing with such pathos, as when they find fit vehicles of their thoughts in its imagery, its texts, and its homely Saxon." "It lives," says another, "in the ear like a music that can never be forgotten. Its felicities seem to be almost things rather than words. It is part of the national mind, and the anchor of national seriousness. potent traditions of childhood are stereotyped in its The power of all the griefs and trials of a man is hidden beneath its words. It is the representative of his best moments; and all that there has been about him of soft, and gentle, and pure, and penitent, and good, speaks to him forever out of his English Bible. In the length and breadth of the land there is not a Protestant with one spark of religiousness about him, whose spiritual biography is not in the Saxon Bible." And another speaks of our version as "having the happy wisdom, the instinctive

tact, with which its authors have steered between any futile mischievous attempt to ignore the full rights of the Latin parts of our language on the one side, and on the other any burdening of their version with such a multitude of learned Latin terms as should cause it to forfeit its homely character, and shut up great portions of it from the understanding of plain and unlearned men."

This is a just estimate of that version of the Scriptures which English and American Bible Societies are mainly engaged in circulating wherever their common language is spoken. In this work they are cheered by the assuring conviction that they are thus obeying the last command of their glorified Lord, and imitating his Divine example of doing good.

The part borne by the Philadelphia Bible Society in this beneficent enterprise, though comparatively humble, is by no means unimportant. To supply all who are destitute of the Scriptures, in a community of five hundred thousand, requires constant activity and liberal means. For the latter, the Society is entirely dependent on the Christian public; and the aim of the Board of Managers is, to make an efficient and economical use of the charities of which they have been constituted the dispensers.

The donations received during the past year, amounting to \$6455 26, have been strictly applied to the accomplishment of the objects for which they were contributed.

The issues have been 3757 copies of the Bible, and

12,229 copies of the New Testament; in all, 15,986 volumes.

The total number of volumes circulated by the Society since its organization, is 226,131; of which 87,690 volumes consisted of the Bible entire, and 138,441 volumes of the New Testament alone, and of the New Testament with the Psalms.

During the year just closed, 1081 volumes have been furnished to Sunday Schools; and 460 to prisons and houses of charity; while among seamen there have been distributed 10,965, and immigrants 2084.

Mr. Gardner is still our efficient agent among seamen; and Mr. Seip among immigrants.

Our esteemed Auxiliaries—the Female Bible Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Sabbath School Bible Society of the Third Presbyterian Church—preserve their time-honoured relations to our institution, and continue to render valuable service in the cause in which we are mutually engaged.

We are happy to announce the reception of two additional auxiliaries, namely, the Germantown Female Bible Society, and the Manayunk Bible Society.

The Female Bible Society of Philadelphia has again manifested a kindly interest in our success by its customary annual donation; and from the Northwest Bible Society a welcome contribution has been received into our treasury.

We are grateful for every manifestation of sympathy and of interest in the cause of the Bible. As the record of the most important events in the history

of the world and of man, and as the only expression of His will which the Lord God has vouchsafed to his creatures on earth, it behooves us all, as Christian men, to receive it with faith, to regard it with profound reverence, to walk in its light, and to live by its precepts; and it behooves us as well to put forth our utmost endeavours to place it within the reach of our fellow-men, so that the infinite grace and mercy of our God may become known to all.

By order of the Board of Managers.

THOMAS MCKELLAR, Cor. Sec.

Trensurer's Report.

		DR.				
To Cash recei	ved from	Presbytcrian Church,			\$1,552	79
4.6	4	Methodist Episeopal	Church,		1,370	89
"	6	Protestant "	6.6		714	36
"	6	Reformed Dutch	"		489	65
"	6	Lutheran	66		397	65
66 6	6	German Reformed	66		31	19
46 6	6	Moravian	66		19	87
"	6	Independent	"		5	00
66 61	4	Female Bible Society.	, Philadelp	hia, .	200	00
"	6	Female Bible Societ	y, Method	ist Epis-		
		copal Church, .			166	58
46 6	6	Female Bible Society.	, Germanto	wn, .	100	28
46 6	6	S. S. Bible Society of	the Third	Presby-		
		terian Church, .			195	00
" "	6	Northern Liberties Bi	ble Society	·	123	48
"	6	Northwestern Female	Bible Soc	eiety, for		
		seamen,				40
"	6	Manayunk Bible Soci	ety, .		39	50
"	6	Joseph H. Gardner,		among		
		seamen,			724	41
"	6	A. M. Seip, colporter	among imn	nigrants,	98	13
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"	: 6	Miscellaneous subser	iptions, &c	.,	119	58
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					\$6,455	26
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Dec. 1, 1856.						
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Subscriptions and Donations.

FROM BIBLE SOCIETIES. From Female Bible Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 166 58 100 28 From Northern Liherties Bible Society, to constitute Mrs. Elizabeth II. Worrell and Mr. Andrew M. Seip Life Members, and for Bibles and Testaments, From Sunday School Bible Society of the Third Presbyterian Church, to make the Rev. R. B. Westbrook, Hon. C. C. Lathrop, Mr. John R. McMullin, Mr. William E. Floyd, Mr. John Zebly, Mr. John S. Whilldin, Miss Maria Richardson, Miss Mary Kay Nassau, Miss Calanthe Lassalle, Miss Jean W. Smith Miss Henrietta Lawton, Miss Rebecca C. Geddes, and Miss Mary Louisa Eaton, Life Members, 195 00 39 50 From Northwestern Female Bible Society, the amount to be expended in the purchase 78 40 METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCHES. TRINITY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Rev. Wesley Kenney. Edward II. Worne, to Hugh De Haven, 1 life James Bateman, . . . \$5 00 John F. Bodine. . . . 5 00 John T. Piggott, . . . 5 00 make Rev. Wesley Kenney a Life Direc-tor of the American Bible Society, and twenty-three members of the Church Life Members of the Phitadelphia Bible . . \$500 00 W. II. Richardson, . . Mrs. A. G. Cattell, . 5 00 Rev. W. G. E. Agnew, 5 00 5 00 J. H. Bowen, . . . memhers, Mrs. E. M. Dewees, . . 1 00 A. G. Seckel, 1 00 Collection, 30 22 ST. GEORGE'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Rev. A. A. Roche. . . . \$36 12 | Mr. Howell, \$1 00 | Mrs. Hartley, \$1 00 Mr. Howell, \$1 00 Mr. Huey, 1 00 Mr. Mullin, 1 00 Mr. Marks, 1 00 Mr. Knight, 1 00 Mr. Smith, 1 00 Mr. Sopher, 1 00 Mr. Hartley, 1 60 Mr. String, 1 00 Mrs. Roche, 1 00 Mrs. Lounshury, 1 60 Thomas W Price, . . 10 00 Mary Bradbury, . . 1 00 Mary Gray, . . 1 00 Mary Harmer, . 1 00 Mary E. Gray, . . 1 00 Robert Bradhury, . . 2 00 2 00 Eliza Mullan, . . . Rev. A. A. Roche, . . 1 00 A. G. Cox, . . . 1 00 Jacoh Knows, . . . 1 00 1 00 Maria Eppleheimer, Catherine Stark, . . . 1 00 1 00 1 00 1 00 I eter Gardner, . . . Samuel Townsend, . J. L. Anderson, . . . Ann Helm, 1 00 . 1 00 Cash, 1 00 Cash, 1 00 Mrs. Henry, 25 1 00 Mrs. Lounshury, . . 1 00 1 00 Mrs. McCrelish, . . 1 00 1 00 Mrs. Fulmer, . . 1 09 John Fulmer, . . . Mr. Goodhart, . . . Mr. Adams, 1 00 1 00 EBENEZER METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Rev. William Urie. UNION METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Rev. Francis Hodgson, D.D.

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Rev. William B. Stevens, D.D.
Appropriation to constitute the Rector of the Church a life director of the American Bible Society,
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.
Rev. Richard Newton, D.D.
Sunday School, Mr. Jay Cooke, The whole amount to constitute the Rector of the Church a life director of the American Bible Society.
THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY.
Appropriation,
ST. LUKE'S CHURCH.
Rev. M. A. De Wolfe Howe, D.D.
Collection,
GRACE CHURCH.
Rev. William Suddards. "Male Missionary Society of Grace Church, for the promotion of Christianity," to
make Missionary Society of Grace Church, for the promotion of Christians, make Miss II. H. Carver, and Robert P. Thomas, M.D., life members of the Pennsylvania Bible Society. Mr. Alexander Brown, Mr. Isaac S. Williams, 500

THE CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT.

THE CHURCH OF THE ATOMEMENT.							
Rev. Kingston Goddard.							
Appropriation,							
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Rev. A. B. Atkins.							
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Collection,							
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Rev. Albert Barnes.							
James Bayard,							
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Charles B. Dungan, S50 00 Robert Cornelius							
CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.							
Rev. John Jenkins.							
M. W. Baldwin,							
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.							
Rev. Henry Steele Clarke, D.D.							
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CLINTON STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.							
Rev. Henry Darling.							
Collection,							

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NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
Rev. L. H. Christian.
Collection
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CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, N. LIBERTIES.
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EASTBURN MARINER'S CHURCH.
Rev. John B. Ripley.
Collection to make the Pastor a life member,
OLIVET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
Rev. E. D. Newberry.
TWELFTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
Rev. William Ramscy, D.D.
Collection,
FIRST REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
FIRST REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Rev Theodore W. J. Wylie. Collection and subscription to constitute Mr. John Wylie Faires a life director of
FIRST REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Rev Theodore W. J. Wylie. Collection and subscription to constitute Mr. John Wylie Faires a life director of the American Bible Society,
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	Rev. Joseph F. Berg, D.D.	
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Thomas Cooper \$10.00	Rev. William J. R. Taylor. John C. Baker, \$5 00	Mrs. Rachel Rudduck, \$2 00 Miss M. D. Cooper, 2 00 Miss Foster, 2 00 Lewis Renshaw, 2 00 E. T. Moyer, 2 00 John Miller, 2 00 Ferdinand Hieskell, 2 00 Ferdinand Hieskell, 2 00 H. L. Hay. 2 00 Mrs. Rovoudt, 1 00 Mrs. Trevor, 1 00 Miss F. Bedlock, 1 00 Miss J. Bedlock, 1 00 James M. Conrad, 1 00 Robert B. Murrell, 1 00 Dr. J. S. Helfrich, 1 00 Cash, 1 00
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John Tucker, 5 00	Horatio G. Kerns, 3 00	H. L. Hay 2 00
J. C. Mercer. 5 00	C. M. Morris 3 00	Mrs. Trevor. 100
John L. Linton, 5 00	C. D. Whitney, 3 00	Miss Laferty, 1 00
C. W. Dyott, 5 00	Cash 3 00	Miss F. Bedlock, 1 00
George Trotter 5 00	Mrs. E. Morris, 2 50	Miss J. Bedlock, 1 00
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APPENDIX.

Female Bible Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In reviewing the past year, the goodness of God is very signally apparent, for although death has been abroad in the land, and many have been called suddenly to render an account of their stewardship, our Board has been mereifully spared from his invasion.

Some changes have taken place, and some circumstances, namely the removal to the new Bible House, with the cessation of pulpit notice, have operated somewhat against us; with this, however, we are not discouraged, but rather stimulated to more persevering effort, feeling that on no undertaking could we more confidently invoke the blessing of God, than the dissemination of His blessed Word.

Our Board of Managers has been somewhat increased since our last report, by accessions from Churches already represented, and two Churches not heretofore represented have been added, making in all, twenty Churches from which we have efficient managers.

In the past year our Society has distributed 121 Bibles, 72 Testaments, 2 Bibles with Psalms, and 11 Testaments with Psalms, making in all, 206 copies of the Word of God.

A large proportion of this distribution has been to destitute Sabbath Schools; and we feel it a blessed privilege, thus to be able to place in the hands of the youth of our city and elsewhere, the Word of Life.

The aged, too, have been cheered by receiving this blessed Word in a print more suitable to their fading vision, and one, far from his native land, has received the Sacred Volume in his native tongue.

We feel grateful that we have been enabled to do even so much in our Master's cause, but bespeak the sympathy, the prayers, and the contributions of our friends, that through our instrumentality the Word of the Lord may run and be glorified.

Sabbath School Bible Society of the Third Presbyterian Church.

Our collections for the year 1856, are

By Male Board,		•		•	\$131	73
By Female Board,	•	•	•	•	82	61
					\$214	34

"Apart from promoting the objects of the Society itself, we have trained, and are training, the youth of our school to the practice of self-denial, and to active enterprise in the cause of general benevolence. God says, in his Word, 'Behold, I make all things new.' Avariee characterizes the generations which are passing away. Christianity has failed to earry its blessings to every creature, because the heart of man has been locked within the narrow limits of selfishness. The leaven of an exalted, far-reaching philanthropy, in action on the hearts of the christianized portions of mankind, is infusing itself into the habits of our youth; and we trust that the providence of God may thus make them instruments of overthrowing Satan's kingdom, and extending the empire of the Redeemer."

GEORGE YOUNG, Secretary.

Female Bible Society of Germantown.

THE Managers of the Female Bible Society, in this their Annual Report, are happy to state that the interest in this blessed cause has not diminished, judging from the increase in the collections made by the different committees, which have amounted from subscriptions and donations to \$109 50, with the addition of \$1 87 from the sale of Bibles. During the past year 7 Bibles, including Book of Psalms, were sold, and 10 small German, 3 large German, 3 large English, and 19 small ones, have been distributed, showing a willingness on

the part of the destitute to receive that which maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow.

It was resolved by the Society to present \$80 to the Philadelphia Society, to which Society they became auxiliary during the past year; and that the blessing of God may attend this their humble effort to assist in scattering the good seed of the Word of Life, is their sincere prayer.

To the Distributing Committee of the Philadelphia Bible Society.

As another year of my labours as your Colporter among the seamen and boatmen visiting this port has elapsed, I will offer the following report of what has transpired in that time.

I have distributed 1582 Bibles, and 9004 Testaments. In going from vessel to vessel, thus leaving none unvisited, and also calling upon the seamen at their boarding-houses, I have endeavoured to accomplish the object of your Society, as far as they are concerned, by supplying them all-with the Word of God.

I have still continued to sell the Bible when practicable. The experience of more than four years shows that to be decidedly the best plan. In the New Testament, which is given to the destitute gratuitously, those who are unable or unwilling to purchase the Bible they will find a sufficiency of doctrine, precept, and encouragement to show them what God requires of them, and what he has done for them. I have invariably found it to be the case, that, as soon as they begin to feel an interest in the momentous truths contained in the New Testament, they will purchase a Bible.

I have met with a few during the past year, both seamen and boatmen, who have been trying, by the grace of God, to let their light shine among those with whom their lot has been east. As an instance of this kind, I will mention the following:

A pious mate says, "The eaptain and two of the sailors love the Lord. We have prayer-meetings on board, in which all take a part. To be sure, we are deprived of some of the privileges which we enjoy on shore; but we try to make the best use of what we have, and the Lord blesses us accordingly." I will also say, that there is an inci-

dental connection with the above, which makes it peculiarly interesting to us. One of the sailors (a coloured man) thinks that your colporter was instrumental in pointing him to the Saviour, and the other (also coloured) said, "that his companion would give him no rest until he gave his heart to Christ." The conversion of these men I mentioned in a former report, but think that this short reminiscence will not be out of place.

During the last very severe winter, as there were not any fresh arrivals after the river was closed by ice, and all on board of the vessels then lying at our wharves were supplied with the good book, I still continued to call on board of these vessels, and endeavoured to press upon all who would listen to me the necessity and excellency of personal religion. One young man, a steward of a schooner, with whom I then met, trusts that he has given his heart to Christ.

I met also with the mate of a schooner, who was led to seek and find the Saviour, by the application to his heart by the Holy Spirit of the following question: "How can you pray with and for your child, and point it to the Saviour, whilst you are a stranger to him yourself?" When I next met him, he said, "I have done just what you told me to do. I bowed before my heavenly Father in my state-room after you left me, humbly confessing my sins, and looked for mercy and pardon through Jesus Christ. It was not long before he gave me a sweet sense of sins forgiven, and I found my heart flowing out in love and gratitude to my Saviour. On the first day in which I arrived at home, I set up the family altar, and with my wife, intend to look for God's blessing in the use of all his appointed means."

There have been 345 Bibles donated this year; 202 of them were put on board of vessels, with the vessel's name stamped upon them. The residue were put on board of the United States Receiving Ship, and vessels bound to California. I have continued to supply vessels bound to Spanish and Portuguese ports with a few copies of the New Testament in those languages, to give to the custom-house officer, and others who visit the vessel. The custom-house officers have generally spent most of their leisure time in reading the Testament whilst on board, and have asked for the gift of it when leaving the vessel. The mate of a barque told me "that the custom-house officer, after reading the Bible on board with much apparent interest,

asked me to give it to him, and took it on shore after dark, as he was afraid to take it in the daytime. We had the same officer on board of our vessel on the next voyage, and he told me that he had read the whole of the Bible, and was much pleased with it. I asked him if the priest did not object to his reading the Bible, when he went to confession? He replied, "I have not been near the confessional or the Catholic Church since." That mate was still an unconverted man himself, or he would probably have given a more interesting account of the Spanish officer.

To show that the way is preparing for the eirculation of the Word of God among the Portuguese, I will relate the following incident: A mate of a vessel which lay at Rio, said, "As soon as I had given the custom-house officer a Testament, they came in troops from the shore to obtain the same favour. They offered to pay for the book, but I was obliged to send them back disappointed." The same mate also related the following incident, which illustrates the moral degradation and superstition in which many of the subjects of the Papacy are kept by their religious teachers. At the death of one of the inhabitants, a painting as large as life was made of the deceased, with his name inscribed upon it. It was blessed by the priest, attached to a balloon, and sent up into the air, amid the discharge of eannon and rockets, with the assurance to the surviving relatives and friends, that the spirit of the departed would go with it to heaven. Thus we see, that where "the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, has not shined into the heart," every phase of error is likely to obtain entrance.

I have received 12,000 pages of tracts per month, of the American Tract Society, which I have distributed among the seamen and boatmen, as opportunity offcred.

I will take this opportunity to inform our friends, that all the religious newspapers and books which they may have, and also Bibles which have been used in a Sabbath School or Bible Class, can be distributed to good advantage. Please leave word at the Bible House where books or papers can be had, and they will be called for.

Which is respectfully submitted,

Joseph H. Gardner.

To the President and Board of Managers of the Philadelphia Bible Society.

Respected Brethren:—We have continued our labours daily at the depot during the past year. The immigrants still throng our shores; worldly interests and a love for freedom induce them to seek a home in this favoured land. Very many of the immigrants, like multitudes of our own countrymen, are groping in darkness, and perishing for lack of knowledge. These it is our duty and privilege to present with a copy of the Bible. In many instances, they gratefully receive it, and sometimes they press the hand, while tears course their way down the cheek. The Bohemians, especially, during the past year, manifested much joy when presented with a copy of the Seriptures. We have constantly on hand Bibles and Testaments in fifteen different languages, and on one occasion, distributed in seven different languages.

2084 copies have been distributed during the past year. We are seldom privileged to converse at length with the immigrants, on account of the short time that we are together, so that no interesting facts can possibly be stated.

Affectionately yours,

A. M. Seip.

To the Board of Managers of the Philadelphia Bible Society.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 21st, 1856.

Brethren:—I have distributed since the first of December, 1855, 50 English, 16 German, and 1 French Bible, and 3 Testaments. Most of them were to very poor families, who were not able to pay anything for them, and were thankfully received. The bodily wants of a poor sick Catholic man were supplied, and a Bible was given to instruct him in the way of the Lord. He read it with much interest; and when his Catholic friends came to see him, he told them what he had been reading about, and tried to explain it to them. Almost the last thing he did, was to read it, and exhort his wife to do the

same. I wrote the date of their marriage, and of birth of two children, and of his death, in the record, after he was laid in the grave, and urged his wife to do as he requested her.

A French Catholic woman was supplied, and was much pleased to get the Bible. Her priest had told her not to have one, as she did not understand it. Her answer was, then it could do her no harm; she would have it.

Some months past, a German Catholic girl obtained one, for which she paid twenty-five cents. She became deeply interested about religion; said she would go no more to confession, and began to go to Protestant Church, and reads the Bible. Much hope was had that she would truly become a child of God.

Some years ago, I supplied a Catholie woman with a Bible, and after she had it for some time, she told me she must give it up; however, I persuaded her to keep it. Not long since, she moved away, and left the book to be given to me when I came; the person to whom she gave it, gave me twenty-five cents for it, and was glad to get it.

I supplied a sick young man with a Bible; he was very fond of hearing me read, and read it himself. His mind for some time was much concerned on the subject of his salvation; and afterward he gave very decided evidence of conversion. I had very many delightful seasons with him in reading, and explaining the Bible to him.

I met with a poor and sick woman in great distress of mind in view of her sins. She was supplied with a large Testament, and read it with much devotion; and after a time, I hope she became a Christian.

A siek man, a German, who had been brought up a Romanist, had not been to church of any kind for eighteen years; he had seen a Bible, but never read one; and seemed to have no thoughts about the world to which he was fast going. I tried to show him his duty and danger, and prayed with him; he appeared interested in what was said. He has been supplied with the Word of God, and some other good reading, which I hope may be a means of doing him good.

Yours truly,

The Conversion of the Jews.

The universal impulse, which in this age is felt upon the mind of the civilized world, has reached the Jewish people. They participate in the general propension to intellectual and social progress. Great numbers of the nation are now in European colleges, and not a few in American institutions of learning, both as students and professors. The mass of the Israelites are beginning to think for themselves. As a consequence, they begin to throw off the dogmas of the Rabbins, which for ages have bound them in error and ignorance.

In this respect, the Jews are situated now very much as were the Germans in the early stage of the Reformation, the stage of inquiry; when they first began to turn their attention to the Holy Scriptures, and exercise

the right of private judgment in matters of religion.

What has kept the Jews in their unbelief, and consequent obstinate rejection of the Messiah, has not been a want of definiteness in the Old Testament Scriptures. Being deprived of the Pentateuch and the Prophets, with the exception of some fragments, and these glossed over with rabbinical explanations, they have given heed to it, and to the Talmud, the oral revelation which the Rabbins falsely pretend to have been given by God to Moses at the same time with the law. These teachings, of mere human origin, now collected and published in the form of a volume, are the "veil" which remains over the mind of the children of Israel.

But if the simple study of the Scriptures produced so great a reformation under Luther and his compeers, may we not anticipate, that when the Jews are willing to receive the sacred oracles, as it is now the case all over the world, the Jews of America not excepted, turning their attention to their own acknowledged and cherished Bible, with a prayerful desire to know of the Messiah, they will be converted to the faith of Christ?

What, under the divine blessing, is our grand remedy for the present state of things? Is it not the cheap and wide circulation of both Old and New Testaments, in the native language of the people? The Bible contains

the best evidence of its own truth.

Now, the Jews have peculiar claims upon Christians for the gift of the Word of God. Not only was that Word, from the beginning to end, written by Jews under the inspiration of the Spirit, but the Jewish nation may be said to have been the great librarians of the Christian Church. By their very jealousy and opposition, they have guarded the purity of the Scriptures, and transmitted them safely to the present day. These then are unspeakable obligations; and how can Christians better repay, than by a large diffusion of the Scriptures, and other translations; so that every Jewish family may possess a copy of the Word of Life?

There is a stronger reason for this course,—that the Jews have been found to be accessible to instruction through the Scriptures, while sealed up against every other channel of influence; and the most important spiritual results have attended the use of the Scriptures. It may be added, that never were the Holy Scriptures for the use of the Jews in a more perfect state than they are at the present moment. The Hebrew New Testament, carefully revised after the labour of years, has been issued in many thousands of copies, and likewise the Hebrew Old Testament,—we believe, far exceeding the New. Surely, to such people no gift can be so appropriate as the Word of

the living God. Nothing is better fitted to overthrow infidelity on the one

hand, and Rabbinical tradition on the other.

Though we did nothing more in the Jewish field, than universally, and in the most accessible forms, eirculate the Scriptures among the Jews in Philadelphia, we would render a service of unutterable value to the eause of Christianity. And this is a work which, among so limited a population as from eight to ten thousand of Israelites, we have the high satisfaction of one day hoping to see, in a very tolerable manner, accomplished.

To show the eagerness with which the Bible is received and read by the Jews, we would observe, that an edition of 3000 Hebrew-Spanish Old Testaments having been exhausted among the Spanish Jews of Turkey, the American Bible Society granted funds for another edition of 5000 eopies. A loud eall was made about the same period, from the Hebrew-Germans,

for the multitudes who speak this tongue in Germany.

The London Society for promoting Christianity among the Jews, since the year 1820, have circulated among the Israelites, through their wide field, 61,600 Hebrew Old Testaments; Hebrew portions of the Old Testa-

ment, 167,034 eopies; and 55,745 Hebrew New Testaments.

The effect of this diffusion of the Bible among them is already apparent; they search the Scriptures diligently, and hold private interviews with the missionaries sent among them, chiefly converted Jews. Numbers are converted, more and more every year. More Jews have been converted within the short period of fifty years than had been known in the preceding eighteen centuries.

The Rev. Harvey Newcomb, in his Missionary Statistics, as taken from the Cyclopedia of Missions, gives the following round numbers:—Missions to Jews, 115; Labourers among them, 200; Converts, members of Evangelical Churches, 15,000; Jewish children in Mission Schools, 12,000.

It is impossible to give any satisfactory numerical statements as to the result of missionary labour among the Jews of the United States of America; but there are living in nearly every city, and many of the larger and smaller towns and villages, converts to the faith of Christ; and whose conversion is attributed mainly to a careful investigation of the entire Word

of God, with an earnest desire to come to the true light.

We do not know of any systematic efforts having ever been made in the eity of Philadelphia. Mere oecasional attempts were made to eall the attention of the Jews, by missionaries stopping here for a short period; and the Scriptures had not been disseminated among the Jews, with the exception of a few copies distributed among them about the year 1850, or 1851. It is only within the present year, that systematic efforts were commenced by the missionary now labouring here, visiting the families for religious instruction, and placing the Holy Scriptures among them, in the languages which they can read and understand; nor has it been in vain to engage in such efforts. - The accurate number of copies of the Scriptures dispersed among them, in whole and in part, amount to 126 eopies, in seven different languages. Of eourse, the work has scareely begun; a work so difficult, and yet so promising and hopeful. In many instances, the Scriptures were received with great thankfulness, with a thirst to obtain the knowledge of its contents; and not a few of the young of the Israelites have given evidence of their sineerity. Among the number of the young men were two infidels, but now close students of the Word of God; another,

of riper age, who had neglected to read the Bible for fifteen years, and had never before read the New Testament, is now anxiously and carefully examining both Testaments. Several boys, from the age of ten to fourteen, have adopted a systematic reading and study of the Word of Life every evening; and not a few Jewesses have hailed the missionary, and earnestly requested of him a copy. A spirit of prayer has been awakened among a number of them of both sexes, by means of Scripture distribution.

A number of Israelites have been induced to visit the missionary at his residence, for religious conversation, from time to time, and asking advice to be directed how to find access to a throne of grace, by means of the distribution of the Bible. Among the Israelites, a door has been opened, and a considerable number of families have become very accessible, where the missionary is always welcome. The number of converts in Philadelphia is very limited, yet it is cheering to know, and to state the fact, that among the number we can enumerate a Professor of Hebrew, a Professor of ancient and modern languages, a Doctor of medicine, the wife of a Physician, the wife of an Elder of the O.S. Presbyterian Church, and two Ministers of the Gospel; proving, at least, the fulfilment of the promise, a remnant according to the election of grace. (Romans 11:5, 7.)

In conclusion, we would respectfully return thanks to the Managers of the Philadelphia Bible Society, for facilitating this laudable and important enterprise of the dissemination of the Word of Life among the lost sheep of the house of Israel; praying God to smile upon its efforts, and to increase our zeal, until we shall have reached every family, by placing a copy of God's Holy Word among them, which may be the means of leading them to the Shepherd of Israel, to whom now they are strangers, and on whose

merits alone their present and eternal salvation depends.

S. Bonhomme.

To the Managers of the Philadelphia Bible Society.

Life Members.

Adair, William S. Adams, Miss Louisa
Adams, Miss Mary R.
Agnew, Rev. J. H.
Agnew, Rev. William G. E.
Agnew, Mrs. Sarah L.
Aikin, Mrs. P. W.
Aikin, D.D., John J. Aikman, John Aikman, Mrs. Louisa S. Alexander, John Altemus, Miss Mary A. Allen, Rev. Thomas G. Allen, Miss Isabella Allen, Robert Ashmead, Isaac Ashmead, M.D., Wm. Ashurst, Lewis R. Astley, Mrs. Sarah H. Ashton, Evan D. Atwood, Rev. Anthony Atkinson, Miss R. G. Ayres. Hiram Bartlett, Edward M. Barnes, Rev. Albert Ball, John Bailey. William R. Baker, John C. Bartlett, Henry M.
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FORM OF A BEQUEST TO THE SOCIETY.

I give and bequeath to the Philadelphia Bible Society, formed in Philadelphia in the year eighteen hundred and thirty-eight, the sum of to be applied to the charitable uses and purposes of said Society.